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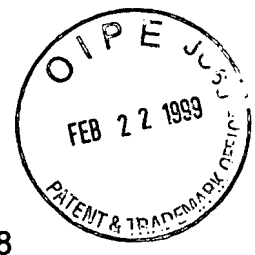
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

NOVACEK ET AL.

Serial No. 09/215,519

Filed: December 18, 1998



Atty. Ref.: 968-76

Group: 3734

Examiner: Unassigned

For: SAFETY SYRINGE NEEDLE DEVICE WITH
INTERCHANGEABLE AND RETRACTABLE NEEDLE
PLATFORM

* * * * *

February 22, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 1-12.

Add the following claims in lieu thereof:

~~13~~ 13. A syringe comprising:

(a) a hollow, axially elongated barrel;

(b) an adapter carried by said barrel adjacent a distal end thereof and

removable therefrom in response to rotation relative to said barrel, the adapter carrying

a needle and providing fluid communication with the interior of said hollow barrel;

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